



SALISBURY HEIGHTS PRESCHOOL

Sustainability Strategy



SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN OUR KINDERGARTEN

❖ Promoting sustainability within our community through developing positive life-long learning, values and attitudes towards sustainability. Our vision is for children to become socially aware and show a deep and underlying respect for their environment.

❖ Engaging children in learning experiences, projects, discussions and global issues around sustainability as a kindergarten staff team, through modelling sustainable practices.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- ❖ At Salisbury Heights Preschool we endeavour to reduce waste by reusing and recycling materials/resources throughout our everyday routines, procedures and practices.
- ❖ We encourage families to bring reusable materials such as, yogurt containers and boxes, that can be used at the craft and collage table.
- ❖ Any recyclable materials are put into the recycle bin where they are then collected at the kindy.
- ❖ The preschool has purchased a red and yellow bin as well as food scrap bins provided by our local council, to encourage children to recycle their food scraps, rubbish and other relevant materials.

SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

- ❖ Our outdoor space encourages children to explore their natural environment. Through our planning we are working towards engaging children in the daily composting of food scraps and in planting a vegetable garden.
- ❖ Children are involved in the care of our fish and Bob the tortoise. Engaging in the natural environment is intentionally planned for and inspired by the philosophies of Reggio Emilia. Children are connected to their world through learning about life cycles, ecosystems and the interdependence of people, plants and animals.
- ❖ Mud play- a digging patch supports children's connection with the natural environment. Clay is used, inviting children to create and explore with this natural resource.



SUSTAINABLE CURRICULUM PRACTICES

Educators at Salisbury Heights Preschool look at ways in which sustainability can be promoted on a regular basis. Respect for the environment is embedded through stories, songs and community discussions about both natural and constructed environments.

Examples of children's engagement within the environment are documented in the program folder/floorbook and in individual observations of children.

The children participate in long periods of indoor/outdoor, collecting natural resources for collage making. When applicable educators purchase or use natural resources and materials for the children to engage with such as wooden puzzles, wicker baskets etc..

WHAT IS WATER?

As part of our focus on saving water and energy, children focus on what is water and water conservation. This is achieved through sustainable practices such as looking at ways to save water when playing in the sandpit or in the water trough. Children are educated and supported to save water through the implementation of visual aids in areas where they may access water.

Switching off the lights where applicable will be used to help preserve energy. Families within our community will also be encouraged to use sustainable transport to preschool and environmentally friendly lunch packaging. Educators aim to reduce the amount of photocopies needed, looking at a variety of ways to share information such as through emails and social media.

BEING SUN SMART

Children and educators monitor the UV reading each day to determine whether hats and sunscreen is needed. There are shady trees, shade sails and a verandah for children to use in the summer months to help protect them from the sun and heat. The UV is discussed with children at our morning meetings. The daily UV reading is displayed for families when signing in during morning drop offs and can also be accessed on our website. Families are encourage to apply sunscreen to children before they come to preschool. Sunscreen is also provided by the service in the morning and throughout the day. Children who have their own specific sunscreen from home, have their sunscreen clearly named and placed in a basket. Sunscreen is reapplied again before lunch Educators model sun smart practices and the preschool has a Sun Smart policy.

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Salisbury Heights Preschool is working towards connecting with the local community through inviting guest speakers from our local council to talk about sustainability, and through the development of sustainability projects with relevant community agencies where possible. Better-Land have been invited to come in and work with our community in developing a sustainable outdoor learning environment. Moving forward we are looking at developing the role of Environmentalist, inviting children to take turns and responsibility in caring for the environment, such as feeding the fish and the worms in our worm farm and helping set up for lunch etc.. We have also connected with Australian Fundraising and have participated in the Plant A Difference fundraiser. Families are invited to raise funds to raise money to go towards planting coral in the Great Barrier Reef and planting trees Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor.



BELONGING, BEING AND BECOMING

The Early Years Learning Framework forms the foundation for our teaching and learning. **Outcome 2: children are connected with and contribute to their world**, helps support educators in promoting children's responsibilities and respect for both natural and constructed environments. As a preschool community we encourage children to have a sense of belonging to a group and become engaged in meaningful experiences that promote sustainability.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

- ❑ Quality area 3.3.1 *sustainable practices are embedded in the service.*
- ❑ 3.3.2 *children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment*

As a community we aim to engage children in sustainable practices through encouraging children to participate in planned learning experiences which help support an awareness of the interdependence of all living things.



OUR VISION

The United Nations Conventions on the rights of the child highlights that:

Every child has the right to an education that fosters respect for the natural environment.

At Salisbury Heights Preschool we are committed to becoming environmentally sustainable. We aim for a fun and enriched learning environment which reflects the importance of creating a sustainable future for our children.



REFERENCE

- ❖ Roxby Downs Kindergarten-Sustainability Strategy
- ❖ Early Years Learning Framework
- ❖ National Quality Standards